(MR. SPEAKER.)

Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1955 in respect of 'Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts'."

The Motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 7—OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES.

13. OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,15,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1955 in respect of 'Other Taxes and Duties'."

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಮಾದಯ್ಯ—(ನಂಜನಗೂಡು—ಅನುಸೂಚಿತ ಜಾತಿಗಳು).—ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ವಿನಂತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಹಿಂದಿನ ಕಟ್‌ಮೋಷನ್ನಿಗೆ ಮಿನಿಸ್ಟರು ಜವಾಬು ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಏನು observe ಮಾಡಿದರೋ ಅದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉತ್ತರ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದಕ್ಕೆ ಆಯಾ ಮಿನಿಸ್ಟರಿಗೆ ಜವಾಬು ಕೊಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವಂತೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕಟ್‌ಮೋಷನ್‌ಗಳ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಏರ್ಪಾಡು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

Mr. SPEAKER.—It lies with the Hon'ble Members. They must come to an understanding and inform me.

Legislation to hand over the Collection of Entertainment Tax to Local Bodies.

Sri R. ANANTARAMAN (Chamarajapet).—Sir, I beg to move;

"That the demand under the head '13. Other Taxes and Duties' for Rs. 9,15,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the failure of the Government to enact suitable legislation to hand over the collection of the entertainment tax to the local bodies."

Sir, Government is the agent in collecting the entertainment taxes on behalf of the municipalities and after deducting about 10 to 12 per cent of the collection charges, the rest of the money will be handed over to the municipalities. That is the usual pratice now prevailing. Sir, during the discussions in connection with the Inam Abolition Bill, many of our friends began to condemn the intermediaries. They said, inamdars who are intermediaries or agents should not exist. When we have condemned these agents and provided for their abolition, I do not know why the same rule should not be applicable in the case of Government acting as intermediaries.

A MEMBER.—Abolish Government?

Sri R. ANANTARAMAN.—I do not want that Government should be abolished. But let the Government take it into its head that the power to collect the above taxes should be handed over to the municipalities. Sir, there is so much of leakage in the collection of this entertainment tax. For example, in the Corporation area there are about 40 cinema theatres both in the City and Civil Station. The total collection would not exceed four lakhs per year. Every year there will be some tournament or international wrestling tournament, etc. During the last wrestling tournament, as some of our friends have already brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister, the Entertainment Tax was not at all collected. The contractor was allowing people to go in even without buying tickets. When this matter was brought to the notice of the Minister, it was assured that such malpractices would not be allowed; but, as a matter of fact, they did continue and the Corporation lost to the extent of nearly 10 to 15 thousand rupees. Even in the cinema theatres, if you happen to go, in many cases you do not find stamps affixed on the cinema tickets at all and such things do prevail. I am sure on account of these leakages, the Corporation loses nearly about 1 to 2 lakhs every year. The Deputy Commissioner is the person who is directly supervising this collection of the tax. He has got a small establishment of one head clerk and one or two persons who collect

these taxes. But I do not see that they are very vigilant and they do not go round the theatres and check up. The Deputy Commissioner is also given discretionary powers to exempt certain shows from Entertainment Tax. This discretion is sometimes arbitrarily used. For example last year, when the International Wrestling Match was going on, for some time the exemption was granted. When there was a cry from the Corporation and also from other persons, then the Government said that they are going to collect this tax from these matches. This arbitrary discretion which is vested in the Deputy Commissioner must be taken away, Sir, because the Deputy Commissioner will be influenced by persons and he would naturally try to yield to their influence and grant exemptions. And these exemptions are given to Sunday shows and benefit shows, foot-ball tournaments, etc. But it is better, in the interest of stopping the leakage, that discretion to grant exemptions may be ordinarily vested in the local bodies themselves and it is much better that the Government do not interfere at all. Last year Sir, you are aware that in 1952 a piece of legislation was framed and brought up and perhaps due to pressure from some quarters, that Bill was not introduced in this House and it was withdrawn. I do not know for what reasons it was withdrawn. We were anxiously expecting that that Bill would be introduced in the next Session. But till now the Government have not made up their mind to bring up this legislation. You are aware that at the present day the municipalities have so many commitments and people are asking always for increased amenities and if municipalities think of introducing new taxes, there will be trouble in small municipalities and also in the Corporation. It is therefore better that power to collect this tax is given to the local bodies themselves so that the local bodies may either collect these through their own appointed officers or auction it out publicly every year if they want to get ready money.

Another fact which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government about the Corporation of Bangalore is that a sum of about 2 to 3 lakhs of rupees is in arrears. Many a time, this fact has been brought to the notice of the Government. The accumulation of arrears is due to the fact that money was deposited in some wrong head at that time. The Civil Station Municipality could not point out under what head money was deposited and the correspondence went on for years. Even now I am told that arrears are still due to the Corporation and so I request that the Government would be kind enough to settle the arrears and bring legislation as early as possible. In fact Government are not at all making any profit out of this transaction. They are only acting as agents. So, it is better to entrust the work to the Corporation or the municipalities, and allow them to collect their taxes as they like.

With these few words, I move this cut motion.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Cut motion moved:

"That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sri P. R. Ramaiya has a cut motion relating to this subject. He may as well speak on this cut motion instead of moving his cut motion.

Sri P. R. RAMAIYA (Basavangudi).—Sir, in supporting this cut motion, I wish to say that the finances of the Bangalore Corporation are not very satisfactory. The population is growing. The amenities that the ratepayers demand are increasing. The water supply question is becoming very difficult. For these reasons, the Corporation of the City of Bangalore requires more moneys. Recently they Enhanced the house taxes and the ratepayers have been finding it very heavy. So, every source of revenue has to be tapped to the full. One very important source of revenue is the Entertainment Tax. Now in the City of Bangalore which has a growing population which has doubled in the last ten years, the Entertainment Tax ought to figure as an important source of revenue.

I understand that there are more than 40 cinema houses in the City and

(SRI P. R. RAMAIYA.)

the number of dramatic performances are also on the increase. Naturally, the Corporation expects that the proceeds of these performances should go to it for the betterment of the people of the area. Now, Sir, under the Entertainment Taxes, the Budget estimate is 7·99 lakhs. For 1953-54 it was 5·99 lakhs; for 1952-53 it was 5·59 lakhs. So, we find that there has been a progressive rise under this head. Therefore, it is incumbent on the part of the Government to see that a good portion of this revenue goes to the Corporation. Now the practice is that the Deputy Commissioner collects this tax and charges for collection. I do not see why the entire collection work should not be entrusted to the Corporation. The Corporation will be able to manage matters better and they know how to increase the revenue under this head. Sir, as Sri Anantaraman pointed out, there is a great deal of leakage under this head and the Government cannot prevent this leakage. So many people connected with the Corporation know full well how this leakage occurs. It is the Deputy Commissioner that is responsible for this leakage; but the Corporation cannot prevent it. Therefore, it is very necessary in the interest of the Corporation and the finances of the Corporation that the collection work should be entrusted to the Corporation. I am sure both the Corporation and the people in the City will be benefited and the Government also will be rid of the bother of this collection responsibility. For these reasons, I support this cut motion.

Sri T. CHANNIAH (Minister for Public Health and Local Self-Government).—Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are certain practical difficulties in regard to making over the collection of Entertainment Tax to the Corporation. The collection of this tax is now done by the Revenue Department. The Deputy Commissioner makes arrangements for the collection of Entertainment Tax and for its adjustment to the Corporation fund. Sri R. Anantaraman and Sri P. R. Ramaiya have urged that the entire responsibility of collection of this tax should be entrusted to the Corporation itself. But, as I told you, there are practical difficulties. One of the main difficulty in handing over the responsibility of collection to the Corporation is that in Bangalore Corporation area there are some cinemas and the owners or Proprietors of these cinemas are members of the Corporation. If any officer of the Corporation is posted to collect this Entertainment Tax, it is certainly not possible for the officer who is entrusted with this collection work to collect the full amount, may be on account of fear or obligation or undue influence of the Councillor.

Sri P. R. RAMAIYA.—If the owner of any cinema is the member of the Corporation I do not think it would prevent in any way the collection of tax. A Corporator may own a house, he may be a owner of a hotel something like that. It is a very curious argument, Sir.

Sri T. CHANNIAH.—My point is, it embarrasses the officer who is entrusted with the collection of the Entertainment Taxes in cases where the proprietor of a cinema happens to be a Councillor of the Corporation. It also gives room for abuse. There is bound to be a certain amount of laxity in collecting and probably there will be leakage in revenue to the Corporation. So, it is not desirable to entrust this work to the Corporation at present. It is injurious to its interests.

Sri V. M. MASCARENHAS (St. John's Hill).—Is not the Corporation collecting other taxes amounting to ninety lakhs? What is the harm in allowing them to collect four lakhs of this tax?

Sri T. CHANNIAH.—There is no difficulty in allowing the revenue agency to continue to collect the tax as at present. The Revenue Department collects this tax, twelve and half per cent is adjusted towards the collection charges and the balance is made over to the Corporation. There was some difficulty in the adjustment of the Entertainment Tax and that was because of certain misclassifications in the Treasury Accounts. In

the result there was some delay in payment of the amount to the Corporation. Of the arrears due, Government have already paid 3 lakhs to the Corporation and have yet to pay about 50,000 rupees. The Deputy Commissioner has been directed to examine the accounts and send a report as to the exact amount due to the Corporation and as soon as the report is received from him, the entire amount will be made over to the Corporation. Government have thought of waiting for some more time in the matter of entrusting the collection work to the Corporation itself. We intended to bring a Bill before the House but it was deferred for some time.

Sri R. ANANTARAMAN.—I seek leave to withdraw the cut motion.

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Steps to check and collect sales-tax.

Sri K. LAKKAPPA (Channarayapatna).—I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head '13. Other Taxes and Duties' for Rs. 9,15,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 (to press the need for taking active steps to check and collect sales-tax)."

*ನಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ವರ್ಷೇವರ್ಷ ಖೋತಾ ಬಜೆಟ್ಟನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದಿರಿಸಿ ಹಣ ಸಾಲದು ಹಣ ಸಾಲದು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದು ನಮಗೆ ಒಂದು ಪಲ್ಲವಿಯಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದ ಕಾರಣ ಅವರು ಈಗಾಗಲೆ ಹಾಕಿರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕ್ರಮಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮುತುವರ್ಜಿಯಿಂದ ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಪಟ್ಟಿಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದು ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೆ ಹಾಕಿರುವ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡದೇಹೋದರೆ ವಾಸ್ತವಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕಡಮೆ ಹಣ ವಸೂಲಾಗಿ ಬಜೆಟ್ ಖೋತಾಬರುವುದು ಸ್ವಾಭಾವಿಕ. ಈ ಸೇಲ್ಸ್ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸಿನಿಂದ ನಮಗೆ ಈ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 157 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಆದಾಯ ಬರಬಹುದೆಂದು ಒಂದು ಸೂಚನೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಪಟ್ಟಲ್ಲಿ ಖಂಡಿತವಾಗಿ ಇನ್ನೂ 20 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿದೆಯೆಂದು ತಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದೆ ಹೇಳುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಈ ಖೋತಾ ಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ತಂದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಗೊತ್ತಿರುವ ಹಾಗೆ, ಬಾಯಿಂಟ್ ಸ್ಟಾಕ್ ಕಂಪೆನಿ ಮುಂತಾದ ದೊಡ್ಡ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕಂಪೆನಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನ ಸೇರಿ ನಡೆಸುವ ಕಂಪೆನಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಕ್ರಮ ಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನಿಟ್ಟು ನರಿಯಾಗಿ ಸೇಲ್ಸ್ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಇತರ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳು ಇಂಥ ಕಡೆ ಸೇಲ್ಸ್ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ನರಿಯಾಗಿ ವಸೂಲಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲವೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದಿಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇವಲ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ತೋರಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಕೆಲವು ಅಕೌಂಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿಟ್ಟು ಇನ್ನು ಬಾಕಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕಗಳನ್ನು ಅವರು ನರಿಯಾಗಿಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ಮಾರುವ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೇಲ್ಸ್ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸೇರಿಸದೆ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ನಾವು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಕಡೆಯೂ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಎರಡು ರೀತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇದರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಂದು ಕಡೆ ಸೇಲ್ಸ್ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಕಡಮೆಯಾಗಿ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿಯಾಗುವುದಲ್ಲದೆ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಕಡೆ ಇಕಂ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಹ ಕಡಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸೇಲ್ಸ್ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಕಡಮೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಅವರು ತಪ್ಪು ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಕೊಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಸೇಲ್ಸ್ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಖೋತಾ ಆಗುವುದಲ್ಲದೆ ವರಮಾನ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಹ ಖೋತಾ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ ಎರಡು ಕಡೆಗಳಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಆದಾಯ ಕಡಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಒಂದು ಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಅನುನರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆ ಕ್ರಮವನ್ನನುನರಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಕೆಲವು ತೊಂದರೆಗಳೇನೋ ಇವೆ. ವರ್ತಕರು ಸಹ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೂ ಸದ್ದೇಶದ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಆದಾಯ ಪಡೆಯುವ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ, ಇದನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರುವುದು ಸೂಕ್ತವೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ರೀತಿ ಅಕ್ರಮ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತದೆಯೆಂದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗುತ್ತದೆಯೋ ಅಂಥ ಕಡೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉನ್ನತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹೋಗಿ ಅವರ ಅಕೌಂಟ್ಸನ್ನು ಚೆಕ್ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದದ್ದು ಬಹಳ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವೆಂದು ನನಗನ್ನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಪೋಲೀಸು ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಣ್ಣಪುಟ್ಟ ನೌಕರರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಯಾವ ಅನಾಹುತವಾಗಬಹುದೋ ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಇಲ್ಲೂ ಸಹ ಸಣ್ಣಪುಟ್ಟ ನೌಕರರಿಗೆ ಈ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಖಂಡಿತವಾಗಿ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಂಬಳ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಉನ್ನತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಈ ರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ ಅಕೌಂಟುಗಳನ್ನು ತಾವೇ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಹೋಗಿ ಚೆಕ್ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದರೆ ಈ ಅಕ್ರಮ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯೆಲ್ಲಾ ಹೋಗಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಖಂಡಿತವಾಗಿಯೂ ಇನ್ನೂ 20 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಆದಾಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಆದಾಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗುವುದರಿಂದ ನಾನು ಹಿಂದೆ ಬಜೆಟ್ ಭಾಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ ಹಾಗೆ ಅನಾವಶ್ಯಕವಾಗಿ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಬಡ ರೈತನ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಾಕುವ ಕಂದಾಯವನ್ನು ತಗ್ಗಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟು ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಸೇಲ್ಸ್‌ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸನ್ನು ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ನರಿಯಾದ ಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸೂಚಿಸಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

*Asterisk indicates that the remarks or speeches have not been revised by the Member concerned.